



End of a local empire

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TASTE

THE PLAIN DEALER

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Wednesday, December 20, 2017

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Today's weather

Some sun, but colder.
High: 35
Low: 24

Thursday: Cloudy, 41 | 32
Friday: Showers, 45 | 41

Weather report. **A2**

Metro&State

CSU shielding records on presidential search

Cleveland State University has prevented the public from learning the names of the finalists in its presidential search by leaving all related records with a private recruiting firm. **A3**

Nation&World

At least 12 are killed in Mexico bus crash

A bus carrying cruise ship passengers to view Mayan ruins in eastern Mexico flipped on a highway, killing at least 12 people. **A8**

Business

Apartments, townhouses proposed for mansion

A developer proposes to turn a 112-year-old home and former private club in Cleveland Heights into 14 high-end apartments and build 13 townhouses on the site. **A10**

Sports

Bucks hold off Cavs' comeback bid

The Milwaukee Bucks hang on to beat the Cavaliers, 119-116, despite 39 points from LeBron James. It snaps the Cavs' 5-game win streak. **B1**

Forum

Opposition to GOP tax plan was knee-jerk

Opinion: There never really was a debate over the Republican tax reform plan, Ted Diadiun writes, just a partisan attack. **E1**

Diversions

'Big Sick' star copes with exceeding expectations

For Kumail Nanjiani, who co-wrote and starred in "The Big Sick," the awards buzz surrounding the indie hit is both exciting and scary. **P1**

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Ring in the new year without blowing a bundle

 You don't need a lot of cash to celebrate New Year's Eve. See our guide to the best

free parties at cleveland.com/entertainment

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Tax reform

House approves sweeping overhaul

Senate poised to do same; technicalities will force a new House vote

THOMAS KAPLAN
AND ALAN RAPPEPORT
New York Times

WASHINGTON — Republicans took a critical step on Tuesday toward notching their first significant legislative victory of the year as the House voted along

party lines to pass the most sweeping rewrite of the tax code in decades and the Senate was on the verge as midnight approached of also approving the \$1.5 trillion tax bill.

The bill would be the biggest legislative accomplishment for Republicans since

President Donald Trump took office and gave the party control of all the levers of power in Washington.

"Today, we are giving the people of this country their money back," Speaker Paul Ryan of Wisconsin said before the House vote. When the bill passed the House, a

giddy Ryan smiled broadly and banged the gavel with force as he declared victory.

The day was not without hiccups, however, as several small provisions in the tax bill were found by the Senate parliamentarian to violate the budget rules that Republicans must follow

to pass their bill through a process that shields it from a Democratic filibuster. As a result, the House will need to vote again on the tax bill, probably today, since both chambers must approve identical legislation.

SEE TAX | **A13**

Puppy love for Santa Paws



GUS CHAN | THE PLAIN DEALER

Cleveland Browns player Danny Shelton gets a doggy kiss from Goomba, a pit bull mix, on Tuesday as he delivers holiday treats, food and toys to the dogs at the Cuyahoga County Animal Shelter. Shelton, a dog lover with four of his own, was dubbed Santa Paws for his appearance, playing the role for the second year. He is a regular visitor at the shelter, which takes in lost and stray animals.

Amtrak disaster

Feds checking if engineer was distracted

MICHAEL BALSAMO
AND HAVEN DALEY
Associated Press

DUPONT, WASH. — Investigators are looking into whether the Amtrak engineer whose speeding train plunged off an overpass, killing at least three people, was distracted by the presence of an employee in training next to him in the locomotive, a federal official said Tuesday.

The official, who was not authorized to discuss the matter publicly and spoke on condition of anonymity, said investigators want to know whether the engineer lost "situational awareness" because of the second person in the cab.



ELAINE THOMPSON | ASSOCIATED PRESS

Two damaged train cars sit on flatbed trailers after being taken from the scene of Monday's Amtrak train crash in DuPont, Washington.

Preliminary information indicated that the emergency brake on the Amtrak train that derailed in Washington state went off automatically and was not manually activated by the engineer, National Transportation Safety Board member Bella Dinh-Zarr said.

The train was hurtling at 80 mph in a 30 mph zone Monday morning when it ran off the rails

along a curve south of Seattle, sending some of its cars plummeting onto an interstate highway below, Dinh-Zarr said, citing data from the locomotive's event recorder.

Skid marks — so-called "witness marks" — from the train's wheels show where it left the track, she added.

SEE AMTRAK | **A14**

Preservation

Public Square building wins \$5M tax credit

MICHELLE JARBOE
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It's a story of haves and have-nots on Public Square, where one former office tower grabbed valuable state preservation tax credits Tuesday while another — the landmark Terminal Tower — did not.

The Ohio Development Services Agency announced \$28.4 million in awards for 22 historic buildings, including eight projects in Northeast Ohio. The 75 Public Square office building in downtown Cleveland won the single largest award, \$5 million, to support a \$40 million revamp as 119 apartments above street-level retail.

SEE SQUARE | **A9**

Law enforcement

Police union rejects contract

ADAM FERRISE
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The Cleveland police union on Monday rejected a three-year contract negotiated with the city that would have given the 1,200 rank-and-file officers raises after the first year.

The city and union will now go to arbitration to determine the terms of the contract, Cleveland Police Patrolmen's Association President Steve Loomis said Tuesday.

The city could ask to renegotiate, but has told the union it prefers to go to arbitration, Loomis said.

Only 634 members voted — 380 against the contract and 254 to approve it, Loomis said.

Union members cast their votes in secret, so Loomis said that he has no idea which part of the contract proposal union members rejected.

The contract became a sticking point in the recent union election that ousted Loomis in favor of former union President Jeff Follmer, who takes over at the beginning of 2018.

Follmer campaigned against the contract, believing the union should have a better deal.

The rejected contract would have given officers no raises the first year and 2 percent raises the next two years. Officers who have been with the department a decade or longer would have received a \$3,000 increase in base pay in April 2018 and officers with less service would have gotten an \$1,800 increase.

The contract would have also changed procedures involving officer discipline, including some that would have run counter to reforms mandated by the federal consent decree.



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Organized by the Cleveland Museum of Art and Cooper Hewitt, Smithsonian Design Museum, New York
Maze with Maze Screen (detail), 1930, Paul Fehér (Hungarian, 1898-1950), designer Rose Iron Works (American, Cleveland, est. 1904), wrought iron, brass, silver and gold plating; 156.2 x 156.2 cm. The Cleveland Museum of Art, On Loan from Rose Iron Works Collections, LLC. © Rose Iron Works Collections, LLC